

U. S. Department of Agriculture  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Selected Data on Migratory Labor.

I. Operations employing migratory workers, 1947. 1/

Operation	Workers	Duration of peak <u>2/</u>	Operation	Workers	Duration of peak <u>2/</u>
Cotton picking	200,000	2-3 months	Bean picking	40,000	1 month
Potato picking	90,000	3 weeks	Citrus picking	40,000	6 months
Tomato picking	75,000	1 month	Grape picking	40,000	3 weeks
Small grain harvest	60,000	1 month	Strawberry picking	35,000	5 weeks
Sugar beet topping	60,000	1 month	Apricot picking	30,000	3 weeks
Sugar beet thinning	55,000	1 month	Prune Picking	30,000	1 month
Peach picking	55,000	3 weeks	Apple picking	30,000	1 month
Cherry picking	45,000	3 weeks	Pea picking	30,000	1 month

Other crops requiring 12,000-20,000 workers: walnuts, sweetcorn, hops, asparagus, hay, carrots, tobacco, sugarcane, onions.

1/ From Major Areas Requiring Outside Agricultural Labor, USDA Ag. Ext. Service.

2/ In one locality.

II. Major areas employing migratory workers, 1947. 1/

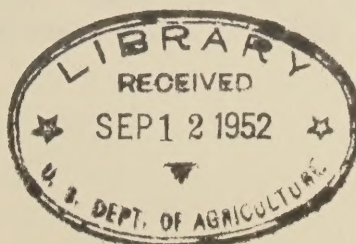
Area	Workers	Crops
Central Valley, California	75,000 - 100,000	Cotton, fruit, tomatoes
Mississippi Delta	80,000 - 100,000	Cotton
Lower Rio Grande Valley	30,000 - 40,000	Cotton, fruit, vegetables
Cotton areas of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona	60,000 - 70,000	Cotton
Atlantic Coast	30,000 - 35,000	Potatoes, beans, fruit
Michigan	30,000 - 40,000	Sugar beets, fruit, veg.
Northwestern States	25,000 - 30,000	Fruit, hops, potatoes, sugar beets.

1/ From Major Areas Requiring Outside Agricultural Labor, USDA Ag. Ext. Service

III. Concentration of employment of migratory workers, Sept. 19-25, 1948. 1/

Migratory labor use	Percent of all farms	Percent of migratory workers
Farms hiring workers	60.0	—
Farms hiring migratory workers	3.8	100.0
Farms hiring 1-999 man days of mig. labor	2.7	44
Farms hiring over 1000 man days of mig. labor	.7	39) 1.1% of farms
Farms hiring unreported man days of mig. labor	.4	17) 56% of mig. labor

1/ Unpublished data from Sept. 1948 wage rate survey, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.







IV. Major "home bases" of migratory farm workers.

Home base	Major work areas
Central Valley, California	California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona
Southern Texas	Texas, Michigan, Colorado, Arkansas, Miss.
Florida	North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, N.J., N.Y.
Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Kentucky	California, Arizona, Michigan, Colorado

V. Estimates as to number of migratory workers.

Time	By	Number 1/
1937	Tolan Committee	4,000,000 non-farm, 1,000,000 farm
1945	Bureau of Agr. Econ.	600,000 migrants
1946	Agric. Ext. Service	600,000 migrants
1948	Bureau of Agri. Econ.	880,000 migrants
1949	Bureau of Agri. Econ.	520,000 domestic migrants, 500,000 foreign

1/ Exclusive of children and other dependents.

VI. Seasonality of hired labor use in 1931 and 1949. 1/

Region	Hired workers (in thousands)					
	In low month			In high month		
	1931	1949	Change	1931	1949	Change
New England	64	34	-30	116	109	-7
Middle Atlantic	131	83	-48	290	266	-24
E. N. Central	241	116	-125	519	442	-47
W. N. Central	259	84	-175	543	566	+23
South Atlantic	331	207	-124	637	920	+283
E. S. Central	149	107	-42	398	885	+487
W. S. Central	235	93	-142	607	833	+226
Mountain	85	45	-40	221	235	+14
Pacific	162	117	-45	314	446	+132

1/ Both migratory and non-migratory workers. From Farm Employment, by Regions, Revised 1931-1949, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

VII. Average days of work per farm worker. 1/

Year	Total days of work per farm worker		
	Farm work	Non-farm work	All work
	Days	Days	Days
1946	113	29	142
1947	106	33	139
1948	104	36	140
1949	90	28	118

1/ Both migratory and non-migratory. Data from The Hired Farm Working Force 1948 and 1949 by Gladys K. Bowles, Louis J. Ducoff and Margaret Jarman Hagood, Bur. Agr. Econ.





VIII. Employment and earnings of migratory workers by age and sex, 1949. 1/

Group	Average days worked	Average earnings
	Days	Dollars
All migratory workers	101	514
Males	116	655
Females	68	202
Age		
14-15	71	239
16-19	86	369
20-34	105	676
35-54	118	623
55 and over	110	400

1/ From Migratory Farm Workers in 1949 by Louis J. Ducoff, Bureau of Agr. Econ.

IX. Percent of migratory workers who had cash earnings of given amounts, 1949, by chief activity groups. 1/

Cash earnings during 1949	All workers	Those whose chief activity was:		
	Percent	Farm wage work	Other gainful activity	Non-gainful
		Percent	Percent	Percent
Under \$200	37	7	27	65
200-599	33	44	30	28
600-999	13	21	12	7
1000 and over	17	28	31	—
Total	100	100	100	100
Percent of workers in each group	100	29	28	43

1/ Unpublished data from 1949 labor force survey, Bureau of Agricultural Econ.

2/ Includes nonfarm work, operation of a farm, operation of a business, unpaid family work.

3/ Includes housework and school attendance.

X. Employment and earnings of farm and factory workers, 1949.

	Type of worker		
	Migratory farm	Non-migratory farm	Manufacturing <u>2/</u>
Average days of work 1949	101 <u>1/</u>	120 <u>1/</u>	245
Average rate per day	\$5.10	\$4.40	\$11.20
Cash earnings per year	\$514.00 <u>1/</u>	\$520.00 <u>1/</u>	\$2746.00 <u>2/</u>
Value of perquisites	\$36.00 <u>3/</u>	\$60.00 <u>3/</u>	\$120.00 <u>4/</u>
Total earnings	\$550.00	\$580.00	\$2866.00

1/ From Migratory Farm Workers in 1949 by Louis J. Ducoff, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

2/ From Monthly Labor Review Bureau of Labor Statistics.

3/ From Perquisites Furnished Hired Workers 1945 by Barbara B. Reagan, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

4/ Estimated from data in Survey of Current Business on non-wage income of wage earners.

# VI. Employment and earnings of agricultural workers by age and sex, 1949.

Group	Number	Average earnings
All agricultural workers	101	718
Male	101	632
Female	83	502
14-17	71	280
18-24	83	300
25-34	100	310
35-44	110	320
45 and over	110	400

1. Total agricultural workers in 1949 by Louis J. Scott, Bureau of Agr. Econ.

## IX. Percent of agricultural workers who had cash earnings of given amounts, 1949, by chief activity group.

Chief activity group	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
General	31	31	31	31
Planting	33	33	33	33
Harvesting	15	15	15	15
100 and over	17	17	17	17
Total	100	100	100	100
Percent of workers in each group	100	100	100	100

2. Published data from 1949 Labor Force Survey, Bureau of Agricultural Econ.  
 3. Includes workers with operation of a farm, operation of a business, unpaid family work.  
 4. Includes hobbywork and casual employment.

## X. Employment and earnings of farm and forestry workers, 1949.

Type of worker	Number	Average earnings
Non-agricultural	101	718
Agricultural	101	632
14-17	71	280
18-24	83	300
25-34	100	310
35-44	110	320
45 and over	110	400

1. Agricultural workers in 1949 by Louis J. Scott, Bureau of Agr. Econ.  
 2. Includes hobbywork and casual employment.  
 3. Includes workers with operation of a farm, operation of a business, unpaid family work.  
 4. Includes hobbywork and casual employment.  
 5. Includes workers with operation of a farm, operation of a business, unpaid family work.  
 6. Includes hobbywork and casual employment.